



SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The angles sang the heavenly song.

God puts a song in our hearts, and "the mountains and the hills shall burst into song." (Is. 55:12)

Herman Reissig's paraphrase of Ps. 150 indicates that God always gives us something to sing about:

"Sing, my soul! Sing the greatness and wonder of life.

Sing faith against despair.

Sing beauty against darkness.

Sing life against death.

With lifted voice, with string and horn, with bell and organ pipe, with drum and cymbal, sing the glory of God and the goodness of life.

O my soul, close from sighing. Listen to the singing.

Let us listen to the singing until we become part of God's song!"

A NEW ADDRESS IN THE NEW YEAR

Churches and congregations take pride in the new address and facilities in which the Southeast Conference will be housed January 1, 1993. Many persons throughout the six state Conference family who contributed to Visions '91 can take deep pride in participating in this accomplishment, certain in the knowledge that there is more to come.

Location Chairman Rev. Floyd Carmack dreamed of another address for the Conference for several years and his personal dream has come true. But Rev. Carmack was not alone. There were many others who wished, prayed and dreamed for the same goal. Visions '91 helped to make that dream come true.

Our new address is 756 W. Peachtree Street – Atlanta, GA 30308. We are on the third floor of the Lutheran Ministries Building. True to our ecumenical intention of the United Church of Christ, we are sharing building facilities with one of our sister denominations.

Come see us. There are four offices – the Secretary's suite, conference meeting room, equipment space and lots of storage space and parking.

We are planning an Open House – Jan. 30 (Saturday afternoon) – Darlene Johnson, Chairperson. Dial (404) 607-1993 for the new Conference headquarters at 756 W. Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30308 beginning January 1.

Open House, Jan. 30, 1:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Dear Friends in Christ:

The pastor expressed how all felt: overwhelmed by the money needs and concerns to which they tried, and wanted, to give their attention. Pressures on families; losing jobs; drug use in some they least expected; more needing food and fuel assistance; an abuse case in the neighborhood; health needs and more without ability to pay; education costs beyond families abilities; and ... They were weary not only to do with regular church activities, but now the overwhelming demands. The pastor said privately, "Oh, to pastor a real New Testament Church" (and then was reminded of Corinth and the churches in Revelation 2-3 and thought again that the church really is a mixture of the mundane and mysterious, the sacred and secular).

Every conscientious church and pastor today feels pulled and stretched! The Conference Board of Directors studied briefly Loren Mead's new book, *The Once and Future Church*, which identifies the radical changes in the mission paradigm presently for the local church, the pastor and denominational judicators. These are not easy times!

Yet in all the changes, we are reminded that we, and so many others, are looking for a community of faith in which to participate with fresh vitality and passion for justice and understanding. And when those diligent, wise seekers journey, they need support when the detracting, demeaning and destructive forces of contemporary Herods would extinguish new life, new possibilities and new births! And when responsible overseers tend their flocks, and heralding alleluias break open their routines, they need encouragement and guidance to journey; and discover that God is at work anew in other places. Yes, the church is very much needed – as seeking souls' journey to the places of God's new life.

I am constantly surprised by God's unexpected workings in the lives of people, and how God blesses our working together. The imagination of spirit that births the unexpected – "who would ever have believed!" we say – is a divine gift of Christmas. Watch for it! And be surprised!

Faithfully,
Roger Knight

SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM EMPHASIS

AT 1ST UNITED, BELVIDERE, TN

By William A. Gerrard III

The First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, TN, has been hard at work in their evangelism emphasis and desire to grow. This began earlier this summer with a weekend evangelism seminar, led by Dr. Harold C. Doster from Atlanta. The seminar was on Persons Involved in Evangelism (P.I.E.), with over thirty persons in attendance. This was followed by the formation of an evangelism committee, called the "P.I.E. Group," comprising persons from all phases of the life of the church.

Plans are now underway to develop a brochure on the church, publicize the church in the local newspaper, purchase a new hymnal, and place a new sign in front of the church. In their concern to reach out to the unchurched in the Franklin County community, the church has contracted to do a demographic study by Mr. Tony Healy of Visions Decisions in Atlanta. This study will enable the congregation to have valuable information about the community and those areas to target in reaching out to others. A highlight in the life of the church was a "Bring a Friend Sunday," held on October 25. At this service over 55 visitors were present for the worship service and reception in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Efforts continue in contacting these and other visitors as the church seeks to fulfill their evangelism task. Dr. William A. Gerrard III, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister in Atlanta, serves as Interim Minister.

The Conference Minister led the church in a future goal-setting meeting.

OCWM RECEIPTS FOR 3RD QUARTER, NOVEMBER 30, 1992

Churches by Association	Third Quarter	1992 To Date
Alabama-Tennessee Association	17,359.08	77,487.85
Alpine, King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Athens, Trinity Congregational	200.00	200.00
Belvidere, 1st United Church	2,272.35	4,735.35
Birmingham, 1st Congregational Church	1,300.00	3,660.00
Birmingham, Pilgrim	450.00	4,500.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	3,871.23	15,485.00
Crossville, United Christian Church	500.00	3,425.50
Cullman, St. John's	1,350.00	6,750.00
Deer Lodge, Congregational	300.00	1,200.00
Fairfield Glade, Comm. Church	750.00	3,000.00
Garden City, Congr. Christian Church	115.50	462.00
Glenmary, Cong. Christian Church	0.00	0.00
Hanceville, Mountain Grove	150.00	150.00

Knoxville, Church of the Savior	0.00	1,050.00
Marion, First Congregational	0.00	0.00
Montgomery, First	0.00	1,900.00
Nashville, 1st United Church	1,000.00	5,000.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	0.00	200.00
Nashville, Howard	600.00	600.00
Pleasant Hill, Comm. Church	3,000.00	16,500.00
Robbins, Barton Chapel	0.00	300.00
Sweetwater, First	0.00	0.00
Talladega, First Congregational	0.00	0.00
Tougaloo, Union United Ch. of Christ	0.00	0.00
United Church of Huntsville	1,500.00	8,250.00
Waverly, United Comm. Church	0.00	120.00

East Alabama-West Georgia Total	1,773.00	9,889.00
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Alexander City, First	0.00	0.00
Columbus, United	95.00	95.00
Dadeville, Elder	476.00	476.00
East Tallassee, Congr. Christian	0.00	171.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Five Points, State Line	0.00	0.00
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	88.00	866.00
LaGrange, Hillside	0.00	0.00
LaGrange, United	105.00	1,036.00
Lanett	0.00	475.00
Langdale	0.00	164.00
Phenix City, Russell Woods	0.00	855.00
Pine Forest	0.00	0.00
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	297.00	891.00
Roanoke, Antioch	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, Bethany	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, First	0.00	713.00
Roanoke, Forest Home	0.00	48.00
Roanoke, New Hope	0.00	600.00
Roanoke, North Main	332.00	616.00
Roanoke, Rock Stand	0.00	175.00
Valley, Todd Congregational	0.00	0.00
Wadley, Corinth Christian	0.00	238.00
Wedowee, Noon Day	0.00	0.00
West Point, Bethel	0.00	0.00
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	380.00	1,900.00

South Alabama-NW Florida Total	695.00	2,355.00
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Andalusia, Antioch	600.00	1,000.00
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Andalusia, First CC	55.00	995.00
Baker, Good Hope	0.00	0.00
Baker, Pyron	0.00	75.00
Bonifay, New Effort	0.00	0.00
Brantley, Indian Creek	0.00	0.00
Brantley, Liberty	0.00	0.00
Clio, New Hope	0.00	0.00
Headland, Blackwood CC	40.00	285.00
Georgia-So. Carolina Total	12,008.35	55,386.77
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, Central	5,600.00	31,000.00
Atlanta, First	2,750.00	8,250.00
Atlanta, Rush	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, Southwest	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, UCC	0.00	0.00
Barnesville, Fredonia	0.00	150.00
Beachton, Evergreen Congregational	0.00	495.00
Braselton, Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Buford, Duncan's Creek	0.00	0.00
Central Congregational Women	0.00	200.00
Charleston, Plymouth	1,250.01	3,750.03
Columbia, Pilgrim	0.00	0.00
Demorest, Federated	0.00	229.25
Dewy Rose, Liberty	0.00	0.00
Jonesboro, Trinity	1,100.00	6,050.00
Lilburn, Gwinnett Community	200.00	1,100.00
Macon, First Congregational	0.00	0.00
Marietta, Pilgrimage	458.34	2,062.49
Midway, Congregational Church	200.00	700.00
Savannah, First	450.00	1,100.00
Thomasville, Bethany Congr. Church	0.00	300.00

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: Long Awaited Pardon

In November of 1992 Georgia Governor Zell Miller presented a posthumous pardon in a special ceremony at the Capitol in Atlanta, GA for two missionaries, the Revs. Worcester and Butler who were convicted in the 1830s for a crime of ministering to the Cherokee Indians, and who were kept in prison despite a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court which said Georgia had violated the sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation. Rep. Bill Dover, chief executive officer of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, accepted the pardon.

Roger Knight expressed gratitude to Mr. Zell Miller for the pardoning of the Reverends Worcester and Butler, an act which represents the "161-year-old miscarriage of justice."

Japan

By Dick Lammers

On October 8, Joe O'Donnell, a member of the Brookmeade UCC in Nashville, TN, and I went to Japan together. Joe is an ex-marine cameraman, as well as an ex-cameraman with the White House during the presidencies of Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. He was forced to retire due to ill health, which Joe and his latest doctors now believe was related to his having been exposed to radiation in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. As cameraman with the Marines, he was the first person to land on the island of Kyushu on September 2, 1945, immediately after the unconditional surrender signed on the *U.S. Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. His duty was to take pictures of the Marines landing in Japan and then for seven months he was asked to take pictures of the devastated by the incessant fire-bombing by the B-29s. (My brother Omer was assigned to one such crew, but he did not return).

About three years ago, Joe began exhibiting a number of his pictures, feeling the need to show the American people what really happened in Japan. Joe now has an exhibit of 51 pictures, which he hopes to increase to about 75, making further selection from some 500 negatives which he is now cataloguing and having copyrighted. In January 1992 when the Neighbor to Neighbor Study Tour group was here we were hosted by the Brookmeade UCC in Nashville. At the time Joe showed us some of his pictures. The Japanese who saw the pictures thought it would be good to have his exhibit in Japan, so the Center in Morioka made the arrangements for us to show the pictures in seven different places. In fact, the Center provided the total funding; for printing the pictures, framing them for display, our travel over and back as well as all of our expenses while we were in Japan.

Joe's pictures tell the truth of what happened beneath the mushroom cloud that resulted from the atom bomb's explosion. Joe found that the Japanese could identify with the pictures much more easily than can the Americans. As Americans, we have not had to deal with man-made destruction of this magnitude and thus don't fully understand it. It was not only the destruction of buildings, but the destruction of innocent human lives of children, women and elderly.

Many of the Japanese we talked to had been in the midst of it all, or their parents and grandparents had. Several who had helped in Hiroshima to gather up the dead for cremation talked to us at length about the conditions at the time. It was not easy to listen to their stories. Many are still suffering from radiation-related health problems. 360,000 people, still living today, are officially registered as atomic bomb victims ("hibakusha").

Here in American when we talk about this part of American and Japanese history the question often is: "Don't you remember the 2,400 who died in the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor?" Our answer is "Yes, we do remember ... but do we also remember the 200,000 or more (the exact number will never be known) who were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the thousands killed in the fire-bombing of some 67 cities before those last two, 'new-type' A-bombs were dropped." In Tokyo alone, in the bombing raid of March 10, 1945, 130,000 people died. So Joe's contention is that the atomic bombs were not necessary. The Japanese were beaten. Person after person told us of their suffering during those days. They had little food, they had little or no weapons, except bamboo spears. Electric poles were set up on the beaches to look like anti-aircraft weapons. Every household was asked to turn in any kind of metal that they might still have available. Metal statues were torn down. Before the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan was a beaten nation.

But that will be an ever-continuing debate. Each of us can only express our opinions. We cannot change the past. We can only remember it, accept it and focus on our future and our children's future. Joe keeps saying: "Peace is our future. Without peace there will be no future." Joe hopes that his pictures may help people to rethink the meaning of peace and that all who see his pictures may in some way become a vessel of peace.

Let me share one impression written by a Japanese high school girl:

"Recently elementary, junior high and high school children use books prepared by the Ministry of Education, in which anything about the war and what Japan did is kept from the children's eyes. What we would like to know about, like what the Japanese did in Nanking, no one teaches us. They do not even teach us to want to know what happened. We are taught about the war as just one happening within our history. It is natural that our anger and sadness is watered-down. After many hundreds of years the feeling will be completely gone.

"In war both sides are wrong. But the faces of those Americans who look at the names of those who died in the *Arizona* Pearl Harbor and the faces of the Japanese who see these pictures are the same.

"We must not let it happen again ... never! You must come to show this exhibit to more people. As one high school student, I will tell it to all the students so that we can discuss it together."

The exhibit was shown throughout Japan and will be in various places all over the U.S. in the next few years.

Shout It With Many Voices!!

All youth in the Southeast Conference are invited to attend a youth gathering the weekend of January 29-31 in Atlanta. This will be a time of fun, fellowship, reflection and service as we renew old friendships, make new ones, and find our voice as the youth of the Southeast Conference.

The weekend will include a variety of activities. We will participate in a service project, have times of recreation and play, and share in time of study and reflection. Sleeping arrangements will be in sleeping bags on the floor of the church. Arrangements will be made to use shower facilities on Saturday evening.

Specific details will be mailed to each church later this month. Joe Hoffman, associate pastor of Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta, is organizing the event with the help of Roger Knight and youth in the area who participated in the national UCC youth event this past summer in Beloit, Wisconsin. Our hope is that this will be a reunion of all youth who were on that trip, plus all youth throughout the Conference.

The costs of this event for individuals will be held to a minimum, and scholarship help will be provided upon request. We hope you will come, or at least one from each church will come, and help us "Shout it with Many Voices!" Be watching for more information, or call Joe Hoffman at (404) 633-4505.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Atlanta area churches would like to invite participation to the wider Conference by inviting women from around the Conference to a planning meeting for two seminars this spring which will cover:

1) The facilitation of dialogue between women's solidarity and 2) The nurturing and calling forth of women's leadership and gifts in our Conference.

Planning meeting is to be held January 19th at First Church in Atlanta at 7:30 p.m. For further information please call Maureen Jenci-Shelton at (404) 874-6113.

Dates:	March 13	First Atlanta
	April 24	Central Atlanta

WOMEN'S WEEK 1993

Take the first week in February to celebrate the gifts and leadership of women in the church! For further information on seminars and brochures please contact the CCW Resources at (800) 325-7061 or the Conference office.

In Brief

Notes: SEC Books close January 12, 1993. Please have all OCWM, Visions and Harmonies to Conference office for crediting. Thank you!

OBITUARIES

John Buskey, Montgomery, AL, December 3, 1992.

The Rev. Jerry Fields, pastor of Trinity UCC, Athens, AL, died October 10, 1992.

Dr. James McKinley, Pleasant Hill, TN, longtime missionary of UCBWM in Philippines, died October 11, 1992.

Mrs. Inez Norris, wife of the Rev. George Graham Norris, of Mt. Creek, AL, died November 13, 1992.

ILLNESSES

The Rev. Joe Brown of Baker, FL in VA Hospital, Biloxi, MS, undergoing treatments.

The Rev. Andrew Frierson, Sweetwater, TN – surgery and treatments.

Mrs. Edna Menchhofer, Jonesboro, GA, fell and broke her hip, then had it replaced.

Mr. Bruce Clark, Andalusia, AL – heart surgery.

The Rev. Hugh Lasseter, Hiawasse, GA, surgery.

The Rev. David Naglee, LaGrange, GA, recuperation.

PASTORS AND CHURCHES

Cullman, AL, St. John's UCC – The Rev. Robert (Shirley) Manning, Evansville, IN, began as interim Nov. 1.

Chattanooga, TN – The Rev. James E. Fother announces that Bible study sessions are ongoing, Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. First worship service is scheduled for February 28, 1993.

Atlanta, GA, First – The Rev. Dwight Andrews installed as Associate Pastor, October 5.

Atlanta, GA, Central – Joe Hoffman ordained Dec. 5 and installed Associate Pastor.

Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior – The Rev. John Lackey retires as of Jan. 10.

Andalusia, AL, Antioch Congregational – The Rev. Easley, Interim, began October.

VACANCIES

Belvidere, TN – First UCC – Pastor

Knoxville, TN – Church of the Savior – Pastor

Cullman, AL – St. John's UCC – Pastor
Marion, AL – First Congregational – Pastor
Athens, AL – Trinity Congregational – Pastor

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

25th: Jonesboro, GA, Trinity United Church
50th: Andalusia, AL, First Congregational Christian Church
75th: Garden City, AL, Congregational Christian Church
100th: Roanoke, AL, Forest Home Christian Church;
Wadley, AL, Corinth Christian Church;
Roanoke, AL, Mount Zion Congregational Christian Church
125th: Talladega, AL, First Congregational Church;
Macon, GA, First Congregational Church

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Lee Gable, retired professor at Lancaster Seminary, *Learnings of a Lifetime (or Living Up to What We Know)*. Order from Lee at Pleasant Hill, TN.

Robert Andelson, joint author with James W. Dewey, professor emeritus of philosophy at Auburn University: *From Wasteland to Promised Land: Liberation Theology for a Post-Marxist World*.

Richard Ward, professor at Candler School of Theology, Emory University: *Preaching the New Testament*.

Dr. David Naglee, pastor of LaGrange United and professor at LaGrange College: *Son of Eli*. Order through David at LaGrange church.

SEC Calendar

Jan. 8-9	SEC Annual Meeting Planning (Talladega)
Jan. 15-16	Identity Task Force (Huntsville)
Jan. 28	New Pastors' Orientation (Conference Office)
Jan. 29-30	Board of Directors (Conference Office)
Jan. 29-31	Youth gathering
Feb. 1-4	Clergy Seminar, "Men Against Violence Against Women"
Feb. 7-14	Women's Week
Feb. 26-27	Pre-retirement seminar
Feb. 27	Church and Ministry Commission
Mar. 12-13	Women's Commission
Mar. 26-27	Board of Directors
Mar. 27	East Alabama Women's Day

Apr. 12-14	Clergy Retreat (reserve these dates!)
Apr. 14	Church and Ministry Commission
Jun. 11-13	SEC Annual Meeting (Talladega)
Jul. 15-21	General Synod (St. Louis)
Aug. 13-14	East Alabama Women's Retreat
Oct. 8-10	Southern Region – Women's Retreat (Biloxi, MS)
[7/2-6/94	UCC Faith Works – Purdue University]

In Brief

All insurance premiums should be mailed to:

United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board
1261 East Hillsdale Boulevard
Foster City, CA 94404

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Robert Johnson

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This transcription was recorded on August 31, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

